



Towards an early warning system for heat events

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Abstract:

Severe and sustained episodes of hot weather during the summer season are associated with marked short-term increases in morbidity and mortality in the United States and Europe. The death toll in an unprepared region can be substantial, as was evidenced in the 2003 heat event in Western Europe. There is growing interest in developing early warning systems to advise the public when weather conditions pose risks to health. These systems link meteorological forecasts of dangerous weather with public health actions. The principal components of an early warning system include identification and forecasting of the event (including consistent, standardised weather criteria for when warnings are activated and deactivated), prediction of possible health outcomes that could occur, an effective and timely response plan that targets high-risk populations, and an ongoing evaluation and revision of the system and its components. A particular challenge is the development of effective communication of the behavioural changes needed to prevent adverse health impacts.

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Resource Description

Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural, Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

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Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

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